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Students choosing KU will now be eligible for new, four-year renewable scholarships for freshmen and two-year scholarships for transfer students, based on academic performance.

Starting with the fall 2012 incoming class, prospective students can visit affordability.ku.edu and know what scholarships they qualify for even before they apply. They’ll get confirmation of their awards within two weeks of being admitted to KU.

In addition, KU will provide extra assistance to new Kansas freshmen who receive Pell Grants and meet academic requirements through an initiative called KU Pell Advantage.

These renewable scholarships align with KU’s Four-year Tuition Compact, which gives freshmen fixed tuition for four years. The deadline to be considered for scholarships is Nov. 1.

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STATEWIDE
KU to offer new renewable scholarships to more incoming students

HUTCHINSON & SALINA
KU scientists search for health benefits in native Kansas plants

PITTSBURG
KU School of Pharmacy student prepares for career as a rural pharmacist

GARDEN CITY & HAYS
KU researchers gauge lifespan of western Kansas aquifer

OPENING THE DOOR TO COLLEGE
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Natural Cures

KU scientists search for health benefits in native Kansas plants

Researchers looking for the next plant-based medicine or nutritional supplement just might find it in the plains of Kansas.

That's the idea behind KU’s Native Medicinal Plant Research Program, which focuses on native Kansas and Great Plains plants that may have medicinal value. The program enlists researchers from KU’s Department of Medicinal Chemistry and the Kansas Biological Survey, who harvest a variety of plants and test their chemical makeup for compounds that have wound-healing, anti-inflammatory, antioxidant and even anti-cancer powers.

Researchers have collected more than 200 plant species since the program began and are building an extensive Prairie Ethnobotany Database cataloging plant information.

“Kansas biodiversity has great value,” says Kelly Kindscher, senior scientist at the Kansas Biological Survey. “Native prairies not only hold aesthetic appeal and environmental importance, but they also offer economic value in the potential for medicines and herbal products that could benefit individuals and the state.”

Hometown Care

KU School of Pharmacy student prepares for career as a rural pharmacist

It’s no secret that Kansas communities face a shortage of health care practitioners.

But third-year KU pharmacy student Jeremiah Hawley doesn’t need to be convinced to practice outside a large city. A resident of Baxter Springs, Hawley in August completed a two-week rotation at Via Christi Hospital in Pittsburg — a location he selected specifically to prepare him for life as a small-town pharmacist after graduation.

“I love small towns,” he said. “I understand why many of my classmates want to go to urban areas, but I’m looking forward to practicing in southeast Kansas.”

KU officials believe Hawley isn’t alone in his preference for smaller communities and encourage students to consider practicing in them. Most notably, in August the new KU School of Pharmacy-Wichita campus opened, specifically to educate students who will go on to smaller communities.

“It’s all about serving the entire state,” said School of Pharmacy Dean Ken Audus. “As long as there’s a shortage of rural pharmacists in Kansas, we’ll continue to address that shortage. Students like Jeremiah will be the key.”
Preserving the Future
KU researchers gauge lifespan of western Kansas aquifer

IN THE FIELDS OF WESTERN KANSAS, THE KEY to the region’s economic future lies underground in the dwindling Ogallala aquifer, the vast store of groundwater that supports agriculture across the High Plains.

That’s why researchers from the Kansas Geological Survey at KU are leading a four-year study to clarify the future prospects of the Ogallala.

“At one time, people thought this resource was infinite because there was so much water,” said senior scientist Marios Sophocleous. “But we now know that the quantity of water pumped out of the aquifer is many times greater than the recharge, mainly from precipitation, that replenishes it. If we keep expanding irrigation, eventually the aquifer is going to dry out.”

In western Kansas, some areas already have depleted their groundwater. But with more prudent usage of the Ogallala, Sophocleous predicted that irrigated farming could have a lengthy future. The results of the research under way will be shared with policymakers and stakeholders to help shape policies and practices relating to irrigation from the Ogallala.

“There is no way to maintain this level of water use indefinitely,” Sophocleous said. “But with wise management of the resource, we can extend it for many more generations than if we don’t do anything.”
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